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THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

Vol. 12. RALEIGH, N. C., MARCH 30, 1897. No. 8

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PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer,	State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
Caucasian.	Raleigh, N. C.
Mercury.	Hickory, N. C.
Rattler.	Whitakers, N. C.
Our Home.	Beaver Dam, N. C.
The Populist,	Lumberton, N. C.
The People's Paper,	Charlotte, N. C.
The Vestibule,	Concord, N. C.
The Plow-Boy	Wadesboro, N. C.
Carolina Watchman.	Salisbury, N. C.

Each of the above-named papers are requested to keep the list standing on the first page and add others, provided they are duly elected. Any paper failing to advocate the Ocala platform will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest

AGRICULTURE.

When stock is kept in a good, thrifty condition there is much less liability of its becoming infested with vermin.

Feeding a mixed ration affords a better opportunity of feeding complete rations than when only one or two materials are fed.

Supplying plenty of dry bedding adds to the comfort of the stock, increases the quantity of the manure, and lessens the labor of keeping clean.

The sudden weather changes, the cold rains, the mud, and the natural craving for grass, make early spring a most trying time for stock and stockmen, requiring unusual vigilance and care, coupled with judicious feeding, to bring all through without loss.

The Michigan Station has succeeded in fattening lambs profitably without clover hay. It was found that any of the following fodders may be substituted in the place of clover hay, viz: Alfalfa, millet hay, oat straw, corn stalks, bean straw. Bulletin 136 describes the test.

Horses are reported dying with a new disease in some sections of the West. Veterinary surgeons seem to think it a cerebro spinal meningitis. The animals are attacked suddenly, become blind and usually die in a short time. The best conditioned animals are often the ones to succumb.

When closing up a gap in a wire fence through which horses or colts have been accustomed to pass, use a board for top of fence, or hang it to top wire by means of staples. If this is neglected, the animals will probably run into the fence and you may possibly lose the best one as a result.

As the earliest crop to be used for soiling there is nothing better than oats and peas mixed and sown at the rate of 2½ to three bushels per acre. They will not yield so much weight as fodder corn, but that cannot be grown large enough to cut before well into August. As for peas and oats, by that time they will have been entirely used up. From the earliest cutting, about the last of May, a second light crop will sprout, which may be cut a month later.

IMPROVED MAMMOTH WHITE FRENCH ARTICHOKE.

(Helianthus Tuberosus.)

Live stock is a great factor in the prosperity of the American farmer, and, taking one year with another, there is no more reliable money maker than the hog. He has bought more farms, lifted more mortgages, educated more farmers' sons and daughters, and built more farm homes and filled them with the comforts of life than anything else. He is a marketable commodity of greater value than the grain he eats, but his proper feeding and treatment is too often neglected. This causes millions of dollars loss each year—sufficient, it is said, to have paid all the mortgages on the farms. The people of the State of Illinois, alone, last year lost $5,500,000 worth, and in Iowa 2 000 000 head, or one third of the hog crop, succumbed to the ravages of diseases. Exercise is a necessity to swine, as, confined in pens they are more liable to fall victims to disease. The most successful plan is to give them more or less range—in pastures when the grass is succulent, and, after that, artichokes. These yield from six to ten times as much as corn, and supply the nitrogen which corn lacks. It is nearly or quite impossible for hogs to have fevers while on an artichoke diet, because artichokes build up and thoroughly invigorate the system. A pig with cholera pastured on artichokes, would be a curiosity. The latest report by the United States Government says that "Hog cholera is caused by a specific microbe or germ multiplying in the body of an animal. If the system is in good healthy condition, this microbe cannot obtain a foothold." When a drop of blood is placed between two plates of glass and examined with a microscope, it is seen to contain, beside the minute disks which give it the red color, little whitish grains called white corpuscles. If the glass is warmed to a temperature equal to that of the human body, these corpuscles will be seen to put out and retract minute processes, which, as if acting the part of feet, enable the corpuscles to crawl over the surface of the glass. The great Russian naturalist, Metchnikoff has discovered that the white corpuscules in the blood feed on the microbes of infectious diseases, such as hog Cholera, pneumonia, etc., when such microbes are introduced into the system. Sir Joseph Lister, President of the British Association for the advancement of science, believes that this action of the white corpuscles is the main defensive means possessed by the living body against its microscopic foes. The corpuscles are manufactured by the blood itself and vary in amount and power in direct proportion to the quantity and richness of the blood. These scientific investigations have proven that if animals are given proper treatment and food that will purify the blood and stimulate and invigorate the system, they can resist hog cholera and other contagious diseases. The white corpuscles in good vitality are as deadly to these germs as strychnine is to a human being. That is the whole secret of success with hogs fed on artichokes. The hogs harvest the artichokes themselves, and, though called lazy, will root up and lay bare enough so that colts, calves and sheep may eat with them. This not only saves a lot of hard work, but gives the animal the exercise so beneficial to his health. Ringing or cutting his nose locks him out of nature's apothecary shop, endangers his health, and is a plain breach of nature's laws. Since freezing and thawing does not hurt the tubers, the hogs may root them out in the spring as well as in the fall. They also produce an immense quantity of tops, which horses, cattle and sheep are as fond of as they are of the tubers, and which makes excellent feed when properly cured. Farmers make mistakes in not growing and feeding a variety of food, or food adapted to the requirements of the animals. By thus adding two feed stuffs to those heretofore grown, a farmer is enabled to obtain best results for butter, flesh or growth, without paying out his cash for oil meal or mill feed. But the planting of artichokes must be begun right. The first step is the selection of the seed. Do not take any risk here. Get seeds that have a reputation. There are artichokes and artichokes. In many parts of North America the wild artichoke is a native, but it is merely a weed which produces but few and small tubers, and is very difficult to exterminate. The Jeralem and the Red Brazilian are little better and badly worn out. Many farmers who have seen them grow understand this fully. Then there are the tame sorts that have been imported from France, where they are largely used as food and where they were brought to their present state of perfection. These are called the Improved Mammoth White French Artichoke.

The above is an extract from an essay written by J. P. Tiessering, Alton, Ill., which gives the experience of practical farmers in relation to this useful plant, and further details as to yields and harvesting, value for a fodder crop, as a drought resister, the manner of destroying them, prices of seed, and last, but not least, as a prevention of hog cholera. He will send this paper free upon request. See his advertisement.

Potash is the mineral that is most needed for the potato crop. But it is much better distributed as a top dressing over the whole surface than applied with the seed potatoes in the hill. The potato roots very early in their growth fill the soil between the rows. When mineral manures are applied in the hill, unless care is taken to mix them thoroughly with the soil, they may eat into the cut seed, and effectually destroy the germ. When used broadcast on the surface there is no danger of this.

THE PEANUT IS THE FRUIT.

The peanut is coming into greater prominence every year, as a factor in the world's supply of things needful and there is hardly any limit to the predictions of the uses to which it may be put. At the same time, the territory in which it may be grown is rapidly extending, and it is not too much to hope that it soon may become a really important crop in this country. Peanut oil is now highly valued in Europe, and peanut flour, said to be extremely nutritious, is used extensively in Europe, especially in hospitals. An oil factory, with a capacity sufficient to use five tons of peanuts daily, has been established at Norfolk, Va. In a prospectus issued by the company, it is calculated that the receipts from five tons of peanuts will amount to 235 gallons of refined oil, at $1 per gallon; 175 gallons of crude oil, at 50 cents; 3 680 pounds of flour and meal at 2 cents, and 3,300 pounds of stock feed at 60 cents per 100 pounds, making the total gross receipts $415 90 per day, which, it is estimated, would give a yearly profit on a five-ton factory of $19,725

POTATOES FROM SPROUTS.

The man who pays a fancy price for a special potato for seed is anxious to make them go as far as possible. The Wisconsin Experiment Station recommends the plan of utilizing all the sprouts. Every fully developed potato "eye" is composed of one strong (terminal) bud surrounded by several smaller (auxiliary) buds. When placed under the proper conditions of heat and moisture, the main bud pushes up and forms the first shoot or stem of the "vine;" at the same time roots are formed at its base. If this shoot be removed, the strongest of the remaining buds pushes up in like manner. This will continue until all of the buds have started, or until all the food supply contained in the tuber is exhausted. Place the tubers in a green house or hotbed in light sand or very light sandy soil and cover lightly, barely out of sight. Give but little water, only enough to keep the earth moist. After the sprouts have appeared, give all the light and air possible, for potato plants show a decided tendency to "spindle" when grown under glass. When the first sprouts have reached a height of four or five inches they may be removed by gently pushing the fingers down close to the tuber and breaking them off. Usually a perfect mat of roots will be found developed from the base of each stem. This is a perfect plant with roots, stem and leaves, and may be planted in the open ground in the same way as a cabbage or tomato plant, and with equal care is just as certain to mature a crop. Three or four crops of sprouts may be taken.

The number of plants may be further increased by taking slips or cuttings from the tips of the sprouts, which may be rooted in a green house or shaded hot bed in the same manner as other soft wood cuttings. To repeat, plant in sand or sandy soil so that the sprouts may be easily removed. Give but little water, to avoid danger of rot. Unless extreme earliness be desired, it is not necessary to use a hot bed or other artificial heat. A cold frame is sufficient with a covering of hay or leaves instead of glass, this to be removed as the sprouts appear.

PERMANENT GRASS LANDS.

The value of permanent grass lands, to the owner and to the country, is more understood every year. We believe most farmers would find it profitable to put down to grass, especially for pasture, a large portion of the farm, and devote the remaining acres to raising the grain, soiling crops, etc, necessary to feed the stock when pasturing is impossible.

Prof. Bennett, of the Arkansas Station, says: In making a temporary pasture for only one or two years, the clovers should be used. It is not profitable to sow grasses for pastures unless the pasture is to remain for a greater period than two years. The poorest soil of the farm, especially where land is abundant, is no doubt the best to put in pasture, but it must be remembered that poor, barren soils will not make good grass pastures, though pastures, whether grass or clover, can be made on poorer soils than meadows can. If the soil be too poor to bring grasses for permanent pasture it can be quickly improved by sowing Japan clover and grazing it for two or three years; then plant and turn under a crop of cow peas and sow the grasses and clovers that are to form the pasture mixture. Japan clover need not precede the cow peas if the soil is not very poor.

All permanent pastures should be sown with mixed grasses for the reason that mixed grasses ripen at different seasons and grazing will be furnished throughout the year. Hungarian Brome grass, tall meadow oat grass, tall fescue, orchard grass, and red clover form a good mixture that ripens at different dates. If the soil is not fertile, tall fescue and red clover will not succeed and should not be planted. Bermuda grass is the best summer grass for this soil, but there is no other plant that is commonly sown with it to furnish grazing in winter and early spring. But clover is said to do it successfully. It can be sown every fall if no seed matures, by first scarifying the Bermuda sod with a good harrow. Scarifying should be done every fall to get the clover seed in the ground.

Crimson clover on fertile soil makes good winter and spring grazing. It should be sown in August or early in September if the season will permit.

One of the best plans for hay and winter pasture on poor uplands is to sow fescue grass and cow peas. The fescue will come up in the fall and grow for grazing during winter and reseed in early spring. Cow peas may then be planted and they will come off in time for the fescue to grow again during the succeeding winter. This process can be continued as long as desired. The pea roots fertilise the fescue. This combination furnishes abundant rich cow pea hay and excellent grazing in the winter and spring. The only objection to this plan is that the fescue may not, on account of soil or season, begin much growth until late in winter or early spring.

SOME PRIZE CROPS.

Mr. J A Forney, of Coshocton county, Ohio, who won the first prize in the Breeders' Gazette corn raising contest, raising 146 15 bushels on one acre of land, thus describes the conditions under which the crop was grown:

The character of the soil was second-bottom clay loam, with a yellow clay subsoil at about twelve inches below.

This particular acre was measured off on a slight raise in a practically level field and as the past season was a very wet one here this slight down grade on all sides gave it the chance of receiving abundant moisture without allowing the water to stand on any part of it. This small rise made a fine place for outdoor feeding and it has received the lion's share of the manure from that source in past years. Horses and cattle had been fed corn fodder on this ground more or less for five years preceding.

This acre had not been under plow in the last three years, but was in pasture of timothy, blue grass and red and white clover from 1893 to 1895.

In preparing it or the corn growing contest the past season about ten tons of stable manure were spread on the ground in the latter part of April. This manure was fresh from the horse-barn where I was fitting a bunch of horses for the market. I was feeding them dry hay and fodder, bran and middlings mixed with steamed hay, ear corn and about three pounds of oil meal per head each day.

I plowed the acre with a three-horse Imperial walking plow, about seven inches deep. No jointer was used, care being taken to stand the furrows well on edge with just enough boldness in the mold board to make the furrow incline safely away from the open furrow. I seriously object to the turning of the sod and manure into the bottom of the furrow with a jointer. I desire the harrow and cultivator to mix a good portion of the manure applied with the surface soil. The ground was plowed April 20th and the plow was followed as soon as dry enough with a Superior land roller, which was followed immediately by a peg-tooth Scotch harrow. It was again rolled and harrowed just before planting. The seed that I used was originally purchased of J. S. Leaming and it has been grown on the farm for eleven consecutive years. I believe I have increased its yielding capacity from 10 to 20 per cent. by selection. I select my seed corn as it is husked, putting it in a dry, well ventilated place. After it has partially dried I re select it, throwing out all ears not up to a certain standard. After this I go through the entire pile and select ears that are as near the exact type of my ideal of a perfect ear of corn as it is possible to get. This I plant the next year on the best site for corn and from this I select the most of the seed the following year. The Leaming corn as I received it was a good length, not overly deep grained corn. My experience has been that as you widened the grain by selection it inclined to shallowness of grain and slenderness of ear, and at most could only extend around the cob; hence I have increased the circumference of the ear without materially increasing the size of the cob by selecting narrower, deeper grain.

I planted the seed May 14th, checkrowing three feet four inches each way, aiming to drop four kernels in each hill and covering about two inches deep. I used a Barlow two-horse planter.

Two days after planting the land was rolled and the roller was followed at once with the Scotch harrow. The corn was cultivated four times with a two-horse tongueless cultivator beginning when about five inches high and working it about once a week. I think the preparation of the soil before planting and the cultivating of the ground after planting and before the corn is up is of more importance than after-cultivation. I want my ground fine enough for a good bed and firm enough to carry an ordinary horse while pulling the planter, not letting him sink deeper than half the depth of his hoofs. Great care was taken to have the ground well firmed and never to leave a rolled surface exposed to sun or rain. The ground was not handled except when a little on the dry order. This corn was possibly a trifle too thick for a dry season, being four stalks in nearly every hill, but as this was a very wet season it matured large ears on almost every stalk, a noticeable feature of the crop being practically no barren stalks.

The corn was cut by hand October 13th, leaving stubs about ten inches high. It was at once husked, weighed and cribbed as required by the regulations.

Muck, by which in this country is generally meant vegetable mould, is too poor in fertility to warrant carrying far or much handling. As for mixing it with stable manures, we would not advise such a practice, as the manure without the muck is none too efficient. There one partial exception to this rule. When a heap of manure is fermenting it saves the waste of ammonia to throw over the pile a small quantity of vegetable mould, and this when the heap is turned must be mixed with the stable manure.

LOOKING AHEAD.

The farmer who is trying to make the most of his farming must look to the future condition and fertility of his farm as well as to the securing of immediate returns. While studying to make all that is possible out of his present crops, he must at the same time plan for the future, and so far as is possible preserve the fertility. Unless good management is given, continuous cropping without making adequate returns will impoverish the soil, and in a short time the yield of the crop will begin to lessen. But with proper care good crops may be grown and yet the fertility be kept up, while it is possible to so manage that the fertility can be gradually built up. It is easier, however, to maintain fertility than to build up, and the farming should be done with this idea in view.—Farmers' Voice.

LIVE STOCK.

A VALUABLE SOW.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

GROVE, N. C.

I will make a statement of what I have derived from one Poland China sow in three years. Including the sow, I have killed 2,900 pounds of pork and have sold $41 50 worth of pigs and have $25 worth of pigs more to sell from her. I killed the mother in February, 1897. She weighed 444 pounds. I also killed one of her pigs in February, 1897, that weighed 486 pounds. Any one wishing some of my stock, can write me. I can supply a few.

Yours truly,

H. R. RAGAN.

HINTS FOR HORSE OWNERS AND DRIVERS.

Dr. A. H. Baker, of the faculty of the Chicago Veterinary College strongly emphasizes the importance of warmth and ventilation of barns. "One of the great sources of injury," the doctor said, "is in ventilating barns by opening them at both ends in cold, blustry weather. The place becomes thoroughly chilled; horses are brought in warm and tired; it is impossible for them to keep the proper temperature, and they are easy subjects for acute catarrh, sore throat, peritonitis, pneumonia and rheumatism. To open a barn from one end for a short time during the day would allow the air to change sufficiently to avoid the dangers of bad ventilation.

"The matter of temperature in a barn is not so serious where as many as ten animals are stabled together. The heat radiated from the bodies of ten horses together amounts to considerable. So much, in fact, that a few cracks in a barn, if so placed as to present no danger of draughts on the horses, are likely to do no harm. In the case of a large number of animals being quartered together, a few cracks are really of benefit. When the horses number less than ten or so, however, the barn should have artificial heat, if possible.

"The importance of keeping a horse rough shod cannot be overestimated, nor the need of warming the bit. A frosty bit frequently tears the mucous covering completely off the lips wherever it touches, and an ugly sore results.

"Another point to observe is the a specific figure should be asked for, I should put it as high as 50 degrees. If the water cannot be warmed the horse should be watered so often that he will not care for more than half a bucketful for each drink. I have seen horses drink fully two bucketfuls from troughs where the ice had to be broken to let them get to the water. The effect of that quantity of water at such a temperature is easily imagined.

"Food, of course, should be increased. An increase of 20 per cent. over the amount used during the summer will just about compensate for the increased waste of tissue taking place in cold weather. The necessity of adding fattening substance to the muscle making portion of the food is important. Fatty material is necessary to produce warmth. Corn is a good fat producer.

POULTRY YARD

AN ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS FOR EGGS.

Green bones are rich in nitrogen and serve as food. When a bone contains a large charge of adhering meat it is all the more valuable. Bones serve several purposes when used for poultry. Being phosphate of lime, they are capable of being digested, which is not the case with oyster shell and grit; and they supply the birds with elements that may be lacking in the food. They also assist in grinding the food, taking the place of grit, and are readily accepted by all classes of poultry. In fact, it is safe to claim that there is nothing that can be used as egg producing food which serves the purpose so well as green bone, its combination of qualities, nitrogen, lime for egg shells, cost and adaptation to all fowls and all ages—give it a place even higher than meat, which contains nitrogen, but no lime or other mineral matter. Therefore, in preparing a diet for poultry, either with a view to increasing the vigor of the bird or developing its egg producing organs, such food should be selected as science and chemistry have demonstrated to be component parts of the structure to which they are afforded as nutrition and sustence. None possess these qualifications to such a marked degree as does fresh green bone, which is a necessity for the highest success in poultry raising.—Farm and Home.